CONCORDIA COMMUNIQUÉ
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8 (514) 879-8497

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Concordia Science College
sponsors first public lecture

MONTREAL, October 1, 1979 -- The alchemists of antiquity tried to change tin into gold and failed. Did they really deserve the scorn of the scientists who succeeded them?

This provocative idea is the topic of the public lecture sponsored by the new Science College of Concordia University on Wednesday, October 17, 1979 at 8:30 p.m. in the D.B. Clarke Theatre, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West.

Dr. Morris Berman, author and professor of humanities at the University of San Francisco, will be speaking on The Disenchantment of the World.

Historians have traditionally seen alchemy as giving way to chemistry, astrology to astronomy and magic to physics, in each case the latter discrediting the former.

The problem with this viewpoint is that it never takes premodern thinkers seriously. Yet, when we place ourselves inside the mind of the alchemist, we see an organic, holistic world that is fully logical and coherent in its own terms; a world which is being resurrected by recent research in quantum mechanics, cybernetics and ecology that disagrees sharply with the conventional scientific outlook.

In actual fact, the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century rejected the occult sciences but never managed to refute them.

Disciplines like alchemy were discarded for social, economic and political reasons rather than strictly scientific ones. An examination of the magical world view and the historical events that shattered it, throws modern science into sharp relief suggesting that its description of reality is fairly arbitrary, a mode of consciousness unique to a particular historical epoch.

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Dr. Berman's upcoming book, Tomorrow's Metaphysics, a study of the evolution of holistic thinking in the West, is scheduled for publication in 1980. He is currently editing a volume on new approaches to the politics of ecology, with the working title, Listening to the Earth.

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A PUBLIER IMMEDIATEMENT

Première conférence publique organisée par le nouveau Collège des sciences de l'Université Concordia

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MONTREAL, le 1 octobre 1979 -- Les alchimistes de l'antiquité ont tenté de transformer l'étain en or, ils ont échoué. Ont-ils pour autant mérité tout le mépris des hommes de science qui leur ont succédé?

C'est ce thème provoquant que l'on abordera lors d'une conférence publique organisée par le nouveau Collège des sciences de l'Université Concordia mercredi le 17 octobre 1979 à 20h30, au théâtre D.B. Clarke, 1455 ouest, bd. de Maisonneuve.

Morris Berman, auteur et professeur d'humanités à l'Université de San Francisco a intituté sa conférence The Disenchantment of the World.

L'histoire traditionnelle enseigne que l'alchimie a été remplacée par la chimie, l'astrologie par l'astronomie et la magie par la physique, considérant toujours que le second jette le discrédit sur le premier.

Ce point de vue fait que l'on n'a jamais pris au sérieux les penseurs de l'ancien temps. Pourtant, si nous essayons de comprendre l'alchimiste, nous pouvons voir un monde organique et holistique qui est entièrement logique et cohérent en lui-même; un monde que sortent de l'oubli les récentes recherches en mécanique quantique, en cybernétique et en écologie qui entrent en totale contradiction avec les connaissances scientifiques classiques.

De fait, la révolution scientifique du 18e siècle a rejeté les sciences occultes sans jamais réussir à les réfuter.

Des disciplines comme l'alchimie ont été rejetées pour des raisons sociales, économiques et politiques plutôt que pour des raisons véritablement scientifiques.

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L'analyse de la vision d'un monde magique et des événements historiques qui l'ont détruite, apporte une nouvelle lumière sur la science moderne et porte à croire que sa description de la réalité est assez arbitraire, qu'il s'agit d'un mode de conscience unique à une époque historique particulière.

Le prochain livre du professeur Berman Tomorrow's Metaphysics, une étude de l'évolution de la pensée holistique en Occident, sortira en 1980. A l'heure actuelle, Berman dirige la publication d'un livre sur les nouvelles façons de considérer la politique de l'écologie temporairement intitulé Listening to the Earth.

SCIENCE COLLEGE

Lecture One

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SPEAKER

Morris Berman received his B.A. in mathematics from Cornell University and his Ph.D. in the history of science from Johns Hopkins. From 1970 to 1975 he taught at Rutgers University, and since 1977 has been Adjunct Professor of Humanities at the University of San Francisco. His first book, Social Change and Scientific Organization, was published by Cornell University Press last year. Tomorrow's Metaphysics, a study of the evolution of holistic thinking in the West, is scheduled for publication in1980. He is currently editing a volume on new approaches to the politics of ecology, with the working title, Listening to the Earth.